

Media Advisory

National Weather Service

Des Moines, IA

September 8, 2004

2004-12

Iowa Annual Tornado Record Was Broken in 2004

Through September 8, 2004, Iowa had a total of 110 tornadoes for the year. This was a record number of tornadoes for a yearly period. The previous record was 105 set in 2001. The record number of tornadoes far exceeds the 30 year average of 45 tornadoes per year. Although the tornadoes caused considerable property damage, and injured several people, there were no tornado deaths.

Tornado Numbers and Highlights per Month

April 2004: 5

May 2004: 47

May, 2004 had more tornadoes than a normal year in Iowa. Three outbreaks occurred in a four day period from May 21 through the 24. The strongest tornado based on the Fujita Damage scale was F3 in Palo in east Central Iowa on the 21st. Perhaps the most destructive Iowa tornado of the year occurred on the 21st in northwest Iowa in Bradgate and Rolfe. This F2 tornado damaged or destroyed nearly every building in Bradgate and injured 13 people.

June 2004: 28

The most significant event in June was the 11th when numerous tornadoes struck northern Iowa. Two tornadoes were rated F3 in Clay and Howard counties.

July 2004: 3

August 2004: 17

August was unusually active. However, the tornadoes were not as large or destructive as those earlier in the year.

September 2004: 10

Tornadoes were small and short lived, but they did produce sporadic damage.

Total: 110

The 110 total may increase before the end of the year. Also, the final tornado count might change slightly. An additional statement will be issued following the convective season.

For questions concerning tornado statistics, please contact Jeff Johnson at the National Weather Service in Des Moines at 515-270-4501 Ext. 726, or e-mail at jeff.johnson@noaa.gov. Thank you.